

THE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
COMMITTEE ON GEOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATION

GRM 2/1
GRM 6/1

ANNEX "A"

To Agenda of Meeting on
TOPOGRAPHIC MODELS

***ARMY Declass/Release
Instructions On File***

TOPOGRAPHIC MODEL OF ALASKA

1. The Request

The original request for a topographic model of Alaska was received by the Relief Map Division, Army Map Service, from the Plans and Operations Division of the War Department General Staff. Construction on the model has been started but the major portion of the assignment remains to be completed.

2. Present Specifications

Specifications, established by the Army Map Service and the Plans and Operations Division, WDGS, are as follows:

(a) Horizontal Scale: 1:1,000,000

(b) Vertical Scale: 5 to 1

(c) Limits of Model:

Longitude - 130° W - 173° W
Latitude - 52° N - 72° N

(1) Area east of Alaskan Boundary will not be modeled.

(2) Eastern tip of Asia will not be modeled.

(3) Aleutian Islands west of 173° W will be modeled and inset just south of Gulf of Alaska.

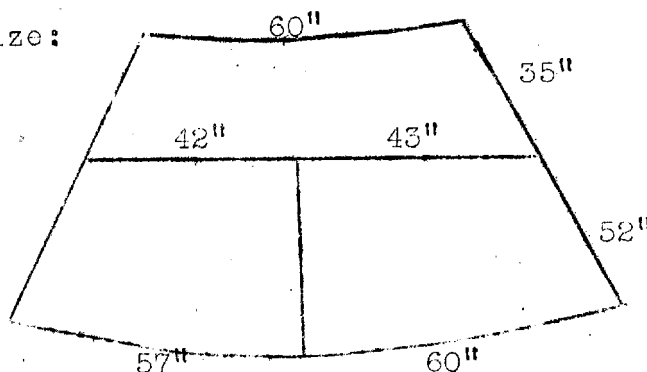
(d) Area and Dimensions: Total area 53.3 sq. ft. of

which approximately 50% is water. Dimensions are
Approved For Release 2001/08/26 : CIA-RDP79-01147A000400020002-1
60" x 117" x 37"

(e) Panel Layout:

The model will be divided into three panels.
Alaska north of 64° will be in one panel; Southern
Alaska will be divided into two panels.

Panel size:



(f) Media of Reproduction:

- (1) Plaster
- (2) Rubber
- (3) Embossed Plastics

(g) Base Maps:

Aeronautical charts 1:1,000,000 with 1,000 foot contour interval. Most of these charts have been corrected to the AAF 1:250,000 trimetrogon preliminary sheets. Not all of the preliminary sheets are available as yet. Holiday areas are still not covered.

3. Construction Problems

(a) Detail vs. Generality:

Should the model of Alaska be a detailed terrain study or a generalized one? The former would require research and analysis of larger

scale topographic compilations in order to supplement 1,000' contour information in lowland areas and to fill in the topographic holidays existing on the aeronautical charts. The generalized model would be based solely on the contour information occurring on the aeronautical charts.

What are the intended uses for the model?

(1) Treatment of Hydrography:

What amount of drainage, lakes, and glaciers should be shown?

(2) Treatment of Culture:

What cultural features should be shown?

How about roads, airports, seaplane bases, towns, radio stations, vegetation, aeronautical information and nomenclature?

(b) Should the panel layout be changed?

(c) Should the projection be changed to conform with the international million series?

4. Financial Considerations:

(a) Cost of the original set of molds:

(1) If a detailed topographic model is produced, it will cost approximately \$20,000.

(2) If a generalized model is produced, it will cost approximately \$15,750.

(b) Cost of copies of the Alaska model:

(1) Plaster set would cost \$1,000.

- (2) Sponge rubber set would cost \$1,000.
- (3) Set of embossed vinylite would cost \$10.00 to \$15.00 a sheet (AAF 1:1,000,000 size) if ordered in quantities of 50 or more.

(c) Possibilities of sharing construction costs:

- (1) How many agencies would be interested in placing orders for this model of Alaska?
- (2) How many of the interested agencies would be in a position to help withstand the cost of the original set of molds?